



Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

www.house.gov/matsui/

Robert T. Matsui

Serving California's 5th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, September 08, 2004

CONTACT: ROB LEONARD
(202) 225-7163/(202) 225-0564

REP. MATSUI URGES SWIFT ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF SEPTEMBER 11TH COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC – As Congress reconvened, Rep. Matsui called on the House Republican leadership to work in a bipartisan fashion to bring the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to the House floor for a vote as soon as possible. Rep. Matsui, together with over 100 Members of Congress, has cosponsored a bill that presents the commission's recommendations in legislative form.

The Democratic bill, following the blueprint set by the 9-11 Commission, would create a strong National Intelligence Director with budgetary authority, establish an interagency counterterrorism center, and improve Congressional oversight on intelligence and homeland security matters. It would also develop an integrated, strategic plan for aviation, port, and transportation security, including improved coordination between the FAA and military authorities.

"The 9/11 Commission has done their job. Now, we need to do ours," said Rep. Matsui. "The Republican leadership should act without delay on this critical legislation. We owe it to the families of the victims of 9/11 to correct the failures that led up to September 11th."

"Democrats stood ready to work through recess on this issue, but Republicans refused to make it a priority," said Rep. Matsui. "Now that we have reconvened, there is no excuse for further delay. We should refocus our efforts on defeating al-Qaeda and other international terrorist groups. The intelligence community must be restructured if we are to improve its capabilities for information-sharing and threat assessment. Most important, we must implement a comprehensive plan for protecting our nation from attacks at home."

"That is why we are working to immediately implement the 9/11 Commission's recommendations," continued Rep. Matsui. "We cannot act in a piecemeal fashion. I urge our Republican colleagues to join us in our efforts to strengthen America's security with a comprehensive overhaul."

###